

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----202030Z 109974 /64

O 201550Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6046
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BAGORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JOHANNESBURG 1254

EXDIS

FROM CHARGE NELSON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, BC, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIAN INCURSION INTO BOTSWANA

1. THROUGH EMBASSY CAPE TOWN HAWKINS TODAY, MAY 20, SENT ME
THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SMITH TO BE PASSED TO USG IN RESPONSE
TO MY MAY 18 APPROACH TO HAWKINS REGARDING THE RHODESIAN "HOT
PURSUIT" OPERATION INTO BOTSWANA.

2. BEGIN SMITT MESSAGE. QUOTE: THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF
17TH MAY (SIC) WHICH I UNDERSTAND WAS SENT BEFORE YOU HAD
RECEIVED MY MESSAGE OF THE SAME DATE (ASSURING YOU THAT I
HAVE NO INTENTION OF INITIATING AN ESCALATION OF HOSTILITIES).

3. QUOTE: DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT ON THE BOTSWANA BORDER
WERE GIVEN TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVE IN CAPE TOWN BY HAWKINS.
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THEY DIFFER SUBSTANTIALLY FROM THE EXAGGERATED VERSION PUT
OUT BY THE BOTSWANA AUTHORITIES. THE FACTS ARE THAT A WHITE
FARMER AND HIS WIFE AND THEIR TWO BLACK EMPLOYEES WERE
BRUTALLY MURDERED BY TERRORISTS ON THEIR FARM ABOUT FIVE
KILOMETERS FROM THE BOTSWANA BORDER. SECURITY FORCES
TRACKED THE TERRORIST GANG TO THE BOTSWANA BORDER AND
FOLLOWED THE TRACKS TO A VILLAGE BETWEEN FOUR AND FIVE

KILOMETERS BEYOND THE BORDER. THEY WERE ENGAGED BY ELEMENTS OF THE BOTSWANA SECURITY FORCES, BEYOND WHOM THEY COULD SEE THE TERRORISTS RUNNING AWAY. THE RHODESIAN PARTY, WHICH NUMBERED 28, THEN WITHDREW IN ORDER TO AVOID A CLASH. CONTRARY TO BOTSWANA REPORTS THERE WAS NO AIR INVOLVEMENT NOR WERE PARATROOPS USED.

4. QUOTE: I HOPE THAT THE FOREGOING WILL HAVE PUT THIS INCIDENT IN ITS PROPER PERSPECTIVE FOR YOUR. THIS BRUTAL MURDER WAS COMMITTED BY MEMBERS OF ZAPU ACTING ON THE DIRECT ORDERS OF NKOMO WHO HAS ASSUMED OPERATIONAL COMMAND OF ZAPU.

5. QUOTE: ON TUESDAY AN EQUALLY BRUTAL MURDER WAS CARRIED OUT BY ONE OF MUGABE'S GANGS WHO DECAPITATED A BLACK TRIBESMAN AND HIS SON IN A REMOTE VILLAGE NEAR THE MOCAMBIQUE BORDER.

6. QUOTE: THESE TERRORISTS REGARD THE NEIGHBORING TERRITORIES AS SANCTUARIES FROM WHICH THEY CAN SALLY TO PERPETRATE THEIR VILE ATROCITIES AND TO WHICH THEY CAN WITHDRAW IN SAFETY. I MUST AGAIN SAY TO YOU THAT OUR PRIME DUTY IS TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO PROTECT OUR PEOPLE, BOTH BLACK AND WHITE, AGAINST THESE MURDEROUS THUGS. WE DO SO IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT NO SIGNIFICANT PRESSURE IS BEING APPLIED TO THE TERRORIST LEADERS TO ABATE THEIR ATTACKS.

7. QUOTE: AS FAR AS THE PRESENT ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE IS CONCERNED, I TRUST THAT IN ALL FAIRNESS YOU AND THE BRITISH WILL CONTRAST MY READY ASSURANCES OF COOPERATION WITH THE EXTREME DEMANDS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IN WHICH THEY APPEAR TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE BLACK PRESIDENTS. THEIR ATTITUDE IS NO DIFFERENT NOW FROM WHAT IT WAS TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS WHICH I ACCEPTED LAST SEPTEMBER
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AND THEY WILL WRECK THIS NEW INITIATIVE JUST AS SURELY AS THEY WRECKED THE GENEVA CONFERENCE UNLESS THE BRITISH AND AMERICANS ARE PREPARED TO TAKE A FIRM LINE WITH THEM. IF YOU DO SO, YOU WILL HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE GREAT MAJORITY OF BLACK RHODESIANS, WHOSE MAIN DESIRE IS FOR PEACE. END QUOTE. END SMITH MESSAGE.

8. HAWKINS TOLD ME ON THE PHONE HE ALSO HAD A SUPPLEMENTARY CABLE WHICH SMITH WANTED SENT TO PRESIDENT CARTER. HAWKINS SAID HE THOUGHT IT PREFERABLE SIMPLY TO SUBMIT IT TO US ALONG WITH THE MESSAGE ABOVE.

9. TEXT OF SUPPLEMENTARY SMITH CABLE. QUOTE: I AM ALWAYS BEING ASKED NOT TO DO OR SAY THINGS WHICH MIGHT UPSET THE PRESENT ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE. IN THIS CONTEXT, I CANNOT REGARD AS ANYTHING BUT UNHELPFUL AND PROVOCATIVE THE REMARK BY MR ANDREW YOUNG IN MAPUTO THAT I AM TRYING TO GOAD THE QUOTE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS UNQUOTE INTO ASKING CUBA FOR AID IN THE HOPES THAT WE WOULD GET AMERICAN SUPPORT. I ASSURE YOU THAT I AM UNDER NO SUCH ILLUSIONS. ON THE CONTRARY, IT IS BECAUSE WE KNOW WE CAN EXPECT NO HELP FROM THE WEST THAT WE HAVE TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS WE CONSIDER NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE LIVES AND PROPERTY OF BLACK AND

WHITE RHODESIANS. MR YOUNG'S REMARKS AND HIS GENERAL ATTITUDE CAN ONLY ENCOURAGE THE TERRORISTS TO COMMIT MORE ATROCITIES SUCH AS THOSE DESCRIBED IN MY EARLIER MESSAGE TODAY. END QUOTE.

10. IN HANDING THIS SUPPLEMENTARY MESSAGE TO CAPE TOWN EMBOFF FOR TRANSMISSION TO ME HAWKINS COMMENTED: QUOTE: WE HAVE TO DO AS WE'RE TOLD, EVEN THOUGH SOMETIMES WE KICK AND FUSS. END QUOTE. HE SAID HE HOPED CONTENTS OF NOTE WOULD NOT BE PASSED TO YOUNG. HAWKINS ALSO EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL REGARD FOR YOUNG, SAID YOUNG'S OFFICIAL ADDRESS AT MAPUTO WAS NOT OFFENSIVE, AND COMMENTED THAT HE EXPECTED "GREAT THINGS FROM MR YOUNG.

11. HAWKINS HAS JUST PASSED THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL COMMENT TO ME REGARDING THE VICTORIA FALLS SHOOTING EPISODE. HE SAID HE HAD LOOKED INTO PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S ALLEGATION AT NDOLA YESTERDAY, MAY 19, THAT THE FIRING BY ZAMBIAN FORCES CONFIDENTIAL

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INTO RHODESIA HAD BEEN THE RESULT OF LAND MINING BY RHODESIANS ON ZAMBIAN SOIL. HAWKINS HAD FOUND THE CLAIM THAT RHODESIANS HAD LAID LAND MINES IN ZAMBIA "COMPLETELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION."

KIRBY

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